

16. HALSEY GROCERY WAREHOUSE
301 North Jefferson Street

W. L. Halsey Grocery Company, Inc.
W. L. Halsey, Jr.
P. O. Box 22
Huntsville, Alabama 35804

South 50' of Lot 8, Block 301, Old Town; 50' (Jefferson) X 100'
16 537695 3843340

1923: Architect unknown
Baxter Brothers, Huntsville, contractor

DESCRIPTION

The Halsey Grocery warehouse is a brick structure of one story built for the Halsey Grocery Company in 1923 and still in use by them. It is a very plain design having a central double doorway with one window at either side under a segmental brick arch. Three courses of stepped and corbelled brick set off the stepped parapet capped with masonry. A shed roof along the side wall protects the loading area while the main roof is flat. The building appears to be unaltered.

SIGNIFICANCE

The Halsey warehouse is typical of the many small, commercial structures erected during the expansion years of the mid-1920s. Both retail stores and warehouses were built of brick with a flat facade terminated by a stepped parapet. It was a simple, inexpensive method of building yet not totally devoid of picturesque elements. Here they include brick arches, corbels, and a broken cornice. This warehouse illustrates the stylistic changes that occurred between 1904, when the first Halsey building was erected across the street, and 1923, when this warehouse was constructed by the same company.

The Halsey warehouse embodies the distinctive characteristics of the Commercial Brick style as interpreted in Huntsville during the mid-1920s. Although designed and built to a reduced scale to satisfy functional considerations, it displays the symmetrical, restrained composition popular at the time, while incorporating a minimum of stylistic treatments which are integrated into the structural design. Because the Halsey warehouse has not been altered and is still serving its original function, it possesses integrity of location, design, setting, materials, age and association.

